MUTINY

A PAPER OF ANARCHISTIC IDEAS & ACTIONS

#37 APRIL 2009

G20 London Report

Melbourne Taxi Drivers Protest

The trouble with Job Networks

Resurgence Review

Occupations!
Strikes!
Boss-nappings!

Mutiny is an anarchist collective based in Sydney. We started this zine to explore different avenues of disobedience & resistance, & to encourage people to write about their ideas, actions & experiences.

Mutiny began as an anti-war collective. We're currently exploring ways to resist gentrification, in particular the 'redevelopment' proposed in the Redfern area by the Redfern Waterloo Authority. We're keen to work with other people opposed to this redevelopment & the displacement, racism, rent hikes & ugliness it involves. We meet regularly: please contact us on the address below.

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Back issues at **www.jura.org.au/mutiny**

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Thanks as always to Jura Boy & Comrade Secretary, & to distributors & subscribers

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IF GREENPEACE organized a black bloc...
Okay, so we bought 50 black hoodies and 50 pairs of black pants.
have the rental dumpsters to set on fire arrived yet?
yup.
lets go!
NO WAR BUT CLASS WAR
GREENPEACE
To be fair...
If the black bloc organized a press conference...
So far you've talked a lot about what you're against, but not what you're for.
Well for anti-imperialism, anti-patriarchy, anti-capitalism, anti-authoritarism, anti-racism, anti-gentrification, anti-prolife, and anti-police.
We are also for breaking stuff.
This isn't a press release, it's just a drawing of a middle finger.

Cartoon from the wonderful *Super Happy Anarcho Fun Pages*: www.tangledwilderness.net

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brief news

UK: factories occupied

Workers occupied three factories after 600 workers were sacked with no notice & no redundancy pay or pension. Visteon, a car parts manufacturer, gave them just six minutes notice & news that their pension trust had a £260million deficit.

The Belfast factory continues to be occupied as we go to print. The second factory, in Enfield, was occupied for 9 days before workers voted to end the occupation on April 9. They will continue to picket outside the factory to ensure Visteon can't strip it down. Some have expressed fears that by ending their occupation workers will lose leverage with their employer. Workers in Basildon have been picketing the third workplace all week.

Unite union officials held talks with Visteon on April 8, announcing that an improved deal had been offered. Details of the new deal have not yet been shared with workers.

The firm is reported to have debts of £669million, but £400million of this is owed to its own parent company Visteon Corporation, whose president Donald J Stebbins last year took home £996,928 in salary & bonuses.

Protests have also been held outside the home of their former boss, who appears to now have a job with Visteon Engineering Services. Scott Edmunds, 33, explained why Mr Gawne's home was targeted: "We're all out of a job, but he's okay. We want him to know we won't just roll over."

Germany/France: NATO protests

Protests were held in Baden Baden (Germany) & Strasbourg (France) on 3 & 4 April 2009 in response to the celebration of NATO's 60th birthday in Strasbourg.

More than a thousand people participated in three NATO-ZU / Shut Down NATO blockades around central Strasbourg. The protesters were calling for disarmament of NATO's nuclear weapons, withdrawal of troops from Afghanistan, an end to the expansion of NATO into Eastern Europe & the dissolution of the NATO Western military alliance.

The police established a "red" exclusion zone around the centre of Strasbourg, where delegates from 28 NATO countries met. Police attempted to dull the protests through limiting movement across borders, mass arrests, physical violence & tear gas, however protesters still succeeded in disrupting proceedings.

Protesters also looted alcohol & set on fire a hotel (after reportedly stealing the alcohol from its bar) & a former frontier post on the Franco-German border. The hotel was owned by Groupe Accor, who are linked with immigrant expulsion & detention camps. Hundreds of demonstrators torched tires, smashed shop windows, & ransacked a petrol station & a pharmacy.

There were also a number of solidarity actions around Europe including a clown army protest at Leipzig airport.

France: mass strikes, boss-nappings

On March 19 all eight of France's big unions joined a day of strikes in defence of jobs & pay. More than a million workers joined street protests in Paris. Among the unions' demands are an end to public-sector job cuts, a boost to the minimum wage & a reversal of tax cuts for the rich.

On March 26, workers from the public sector, schools, & the transportation sector including some air traffic controllers walked off the job. The General Confederation of Labor, France's largest labor union, estimated than more than 3 million demonstrators joined over 200 protests nationwide.

There have also been a number of cases of workers taking their bosses hostage. Hundreds of workers at a Caterpillar factory, angry that more than 700 jobs were being cut, held exectuives of the company hostage to force them to negotiate. Employees at a 3M factory held a manager hostage for more than 24 hours over a dispute about terms for laid-off staff. He was allowed to leave after talks between unions & company officials. Earlier this month, the boss of Sony France was held overnight until he agreed to reopen talks on compensation when the factory closed.

UK: Anti-occupation occupations

Students at universities across the UK have carried out occupations which have forced their universities to get rid of investments in arms companies linked to Israel & set up scholarships for Palestinians. The wave of protests, at at least twenty-eight institutions, was sparked by Israel's invasion & seige of Gaza.

One of the most recent was at Cardiff university, where students held a lecture theatre for three days, until the university sold its £209,000 of shares in both BAE & General Electric & gave instructions to fund managers not to reinvest in the arms trade at any point.

Mexico: Indigenous resistance

12 indigenous people were beaten in a clash with cops, both sides using clubs & stones, on the outskirts of San Cristobal de las Casas in the southern Mexican state of Chiapas. The fight started after police received orders to remove the indigenous people from land they had occupied (owned by the National Commission for the Development of Indigenous Peoples) & where some 500 families were living.

Men, women & children refused to leave the property as 260 cops started dismantling & burning their huts. The people took up clubs & stones against the cops, who were eventually driven away.

They warned that they will keep up their resistance. "We're not leaving, because we have nowhere to live & even if we have to die, we're staying here" another indigenous source said.

NSW: more stupid laws

The state Labor government of NSW this month passed a number of laws that give police extra power & open new avenues for people to be criminalised based on their associations.

Under the "Law Enforcement (Powers & Responsibilities) Amendment (Search Powers) Bill", general duties police were granted the right to conduct covert searches. Rather than having to declare themselves & present a warrant to search a property, they will be allowed to enter houses secretly or impersonate other people to get through the door. Cops will also be allowed to secretly enter properties next door to their target. They only have to declare within three years that they have conducted a secret search.

These powers apply to any criminal offences which can be heard by a jury & are punishable by seven or more years in prison. This includes a number of property damage & public order offences – such as those that people faced after protesting the G20 in Melbourne in 2006.

At the start of April, as a result of panic about bikie gangs, laws were ruahed through that enables the police commissioner to make an application to the Supreme Court to have an outlaw motorcycle gang declared a criminal organisation. Gang members who associate with each other can be charged without warning & face at least two years jail, & bikies can be jailed for up to five years on the mere police suspicion they're involved in criminal activities.

As the Police Commissioner, Andrew Scipione, said during the APEC lock-down in September 2007, this is just the way we do business in NSW now.

UK: Sir Money-bag's home attacked

On March 25, the Edinburgh home of former Royal Bank of Scotland boss Sir Fred Goodwin was attacked by vandals, who smashed windows & vandalised a Mercedes parked in the driveway. Goodwin took early retirement from RBS last year after the bank needed a £20 billion (AUD$4.15 billion) bailout from the government. There has been widespread public & political anger over his £700,000 (AUD$1.45 million) a year pension payout.

A group angry at bank executives' pay contacted a newspaper claiming to be behind the early morning attack. Their statement said: "We are angry that rich people, like him, are paying themselves a huge amount of money, & living in luxury, while ordinary people are made unemployed, destitute & homeless. This is a crime. Bank bosses should be jailed. This is just the beginning."

G20 LONDON REPORT
BY UK CORESPONDENTS

Times are tough, so the heads of government of the 20 countries with the world's largest economies (well, 19 countries plus fortress Europe herself, the EU), just got together in London for another chat about how to keep the cruel monolith, that teetering illusion, capitalism, alive for the duration of their political careers. And while President Sarkozy of France made headlines by threatening to walk out on Jamie Oliver's dinner before dessert over UK/US support for tax havens, anger was brewing on the streets, and the police were gearing up for some muscle-flexing and head-cracking, which this time included attacking a passer-by, leading to his death…..

The Saturday before the summit, a big public march through London under the slogan 'Put People First' drew about 26,000 participants. This was the 'acceptable protest', drawing the usual mix of dissidents, including a large and varied union presence, NGOs, , feminist groups and the Salvation Army brass band. I heard whispers from an old-time squatter and anti-authoritarian agitator of a semi-suicidal planned action at Downing Street but this seemed not to materialise (probably for the best, although the threat of it helps to ease a 3-hour march though eh…?).

While the summit itself took place in the Excel Centre in London's Docklands, the major focus for protesters was the Bank of England, in the heart of the City of London, the capital's financial centre. Although several hundred people took part in protests at Excel on Thursday April 2nd, this was never a desirable target, since it is home to the 2-yearly DSEi Arms Fair and therefore used to providing high security to protect murderers from the public.

On April Fool's Day/ Financial Fools Day, a group calling themselves G20 meltdown called for people to 'storm the banks'. This protest aimed to direct anger from the effects of the current economic crisis towards the heart of the problem… global capital. Demonstrators gathered at 4 stations surrounding the Bank of England, representing the 'four horsemen of the apocalypse' – red at Moorgate representing war; green at Liverpool St representing climate chaos; silver at London Bridge representing money crimes and black at Cannon St representing land-grabbers. These four streams of dissent converged outside the Bank Of England at midday….. where they

were promptly kettled by police (kettling is the tactic-du-jour for the UK fuzz, which involves forming a cordon of police officers around a group of protesters and not allowing them out for as long as they feel like, even if, to cite 2 examples from Wednesday, they are pregnant or have a broken ankle. They tend to let people go in dribbles, hoping you'll be so hungry and desperate for a piss you will just leave quietly. Large kettles are typified by scuffles at their edges.)

Around 5,000 took part in this demo, most of them seemingly prepared to be militant. It was certainly the largest black bloc I have ever found myself a part of. A group of around 30 of us broke free of the police kettle as it was forming and ran around the streets for a while with a small police escort, while comrades still trapped in the kettle found themselves much closer to the action.

Many businesses and financial institutions in the City had boarded up their windows in anticipation of the angry mob…. But strangely not so a branch of the Royal Bank of Scotland, currently the target of intense public anger due to its former chief executive Sir Fred Goodwin being given a £16.6m pension (£3m of which he has already claimed), despite the bank having been nationalised (read: bailed out at public expense) because it was going under.

Some have speculated since that this leaving of an unboarded sitting duck target INSIDE the police kettle might have been tactical – somewhere to direct protestors rage and yield nice photos of out-of-control 'violent anarchists'. Nevertheless, I feel a little joy each time I see one of the images of people taking scaffold poles to the RBS windows and then throwing computers and other hardware out from inside. I want politicians, bankers and capitalists of all kinds to feel a little fear…. Not that they will suffer physical harm (I'm not so down with that, we can discuss it again some time…) but much more potently, that the system they reside in is not safe, is already lurching about a bit, and could soon be brought to the ground by our collective power.

A major observation I had of this whole demo was the overwhelming number of press photographers around, in the front lines around any clashes between protesters and police, and moving freely across police lines. A classic illustration of their numbers and their role is a photo which was printed in 2 different forms in 2 different papers. In one, you see a demonstrator with blood on his face lying on the ground in front of a line of police who (surprise) just stand there. In the other version the rest of the frame is there, showing an even larger line of journalists, cameras clicking away, none of them moving to help the guy either….. Read it how you will….

Just up the road, Climate Camp had negotiated with police to put up camp on the road and stay there over night until midday the next day. Many people spoke of a laid-back carnival atmosphere with markedly less tension than at the Bank. When a group of black bloc visited and tried to take more road, some from the climate camp did a bit of 'good protester-bad protester', denouncing the attempt. I felt pretty disappointed by this and didn't spend much time there, although many who were not up for the aggro down the road really enjoyed it (for a while). Later in the evening, however, the police reverted to their business-as-usual, revealing once again the fragility of any agreement protesters negotiate with protectors of the institutions that have caused the problems you are there to protest.

According to Indymedia reports, in the evening police began attacking the edges of the camp, and kettled in over 2,000 people. They then made snatch-squad arrests, prevented people photographing them, and eventually at around midnight-1am violently evicted the whole camp.

A building near the demo site was squatted as a convergence centre, and this was illegally evicted by police on Thursday in the middle of the day, who detained and ID'ed 100 people. Rampart, a nearby social centre, was also raided.

A protest called for 7am the next day at the stock exchange drew less than 100 people, many of whom left soon after, feeling vulnerable to the large police presence (at least 2 arrests were made, with 6 cops jumping one guy). Some street theatre took place in the form of a giant game of monopoly, but all in all I wish I'd stayed in bed…

One event that you will all have read about, I expect, is the death of Ian Tomlinson. He was a 47 year old man, not involved in the protests, who was attacked by police while walking near to the kettle at Bank on his way home from helping his friend on his news stand, to the hostel where he stayed. See: http://www.guardian.co.uk/uk/2009/apr/07/video-g20-police-assault According to reports printed in the conservative *Daily Telegraph*, police had already shoved Ian Tomlinson to the ground and hit him with batons before the point where this video begins. Five minutes later he collapsed in the street. After some delay due to the police refusing to speak to the ambulance service on the phone of a protester, he was taken to hospital but was pronounced dead there. The cause of death is reported as a heart attack. Initial media reports emphasised that 'protesters hurled bottles' at police who were 'trying to save' him (one or 2 bottles were thrown by people not aware of what was going on, before others in the crowd stopped them). As eyewitness reports started to emerge and then this video (cannily the New York banker who filmed it took it directly to the centre-left press rather than to the 'Independent' Police Complaints Commission), the press began to turn, under the groaning weight of evidence that the police contributed to, if not caused, this man's death.

The fact that he was not a protester but an 'innocent bystander' has also in my view contributed to a general feeling of disgust with police violence.

There was a solidarity demo the following day, and that evening a public meeting of over 100 people, including eye-witnesses, which released statements to the press. A further solidarity demo took place last Saturday and another is scheduled for tomorrow. Many people are angry and want to continue to mobilise around the issue of police violence highlighted by this death.

The press has repeatedly reported over the last fortnight that London was the worst possible place in the UK that the G20 summit could have been held. This is because there are supposedly the 'most organised anarchists' and the most 'important (capitalist) institutions' in this city. Obviously these things were on our side and we did our best to use this to our advantage. Whether or not our movements are able to grow in strength and numbers as a result of this experience, especially at this time of widespread dissatisfaction with bankers and 'the system', remains to be seen.

Taxi Drivers Take to the Roads in Protest Against New Licenses

by Liz Thompson

On Wednesday, March 18th 2009, more than 100 taxi drivers participated in a protest against the release of 530 new taxi licenses, as proposed by the Essential Services Commission and the Victorian government.

Beginning at Arden St, North Melbourne, the protest included members of the Victorian Taxi Drivers Association (VTDA), Cabbie Association for Recreational Activities (CARA) and the Transport Workers Union (TWU). One taxi drove along with a coffin on top, symbolising what many drivers see as the death of the industry that will eventuate with the license release - a thinly veiled step towards total deregulation.

The taxis drove in convoy around the CBD with their lights on, in an attempt to demonstrate to the public the traffic chaos which will be just one of the effects of having 530 new cabs on the road. It is anticipated most of these will be driving around the city competing for already scarce work at any one time.

The response of the police and the Victorian Taxi Directorate (VTD) (an arm of the Victorian Public Transport Department) was, typically, one of hysteria and overkill. The Victoria Police deployed several highway patrol cars, a squad of motorbike police, and police on horseback. At one stage police were deployed to prevent drivers taking their chosen route, an otherwise perfectly legal left turn from Russell into Collins St! The VTD had squads of their own, deployed on corners throughout the city, taking down car details as the convoy moved through the city. The VTD even deployed rather unsubtle undercover snoops to listen in on conversations between the VTDA and CARA about tactics. Despite this attempted intimidation, the protest went smoothly, minus a few minor traffic infringements issued to drivers by otherwise bored motorcycle cops.

The VTD appeared panicked by the level of driver participation – not surprising considering the efforts they had made to pressure driver representative organisations to call off the protest. When CARA representatives explained to the media the effects of the new licenses on driver income and traffic, the response of the VTD was that they would push for as many licenses as possible until every passenger could get a cab when they wanted – total deregulation! The Victorian Public Transport department is going with their standard tactic of blaming public transport workers – in this case cab drivers rather than train drivers – for the failures of the department, particularly in the area of access to public transport for users with disabilities. Everyone knows that the proposal to release 330 new Wheelchair Accessible Taxi (WAT) licenses is a poor substitute for action recommended by the Department's own Disability Action Plan. This plan

was supposed to have resulted in major adjustments to the train and tram network to support public transport users with disabilities. The VTD has also done nothing to implement changes to the dispatch and booking system for WATs as recommended by bodies like the Victorian Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission and the VTDA. Instead these WATs will end up at the airport competing for scarce work while disabled passengers remain stranded by an ineffective dispatch system and inaccessible public transport.

It remains to be seen whether the TWU, VTDA and CARA can join up with those forces pressuring Lynne Kosky (Minister for Public Transport) over her mishandling of the Victorian public transport portfolio more broadly, to create an effective alliance against the new licenses, and for real public transport solutions for the travelling public.

Whilst I'm not an enormous fan of the Labor Right TWU myself, the drivers are actively seeking union backing. Most of the driver militants are driving 6 or 7 days a week for 12 hours, so continuing the current level of activity without some organisational support is going to prove a problem. Thus far the TWU seems surprisingly uninterested in the mass recruitment potential of involvement in this struggle, sending a few hard-working but lower level recruitment organisers along to the demo. Considering that their membership in the industry seems mostly confined to the owner drivers and the over 50s, one hopes they can see the potential not just in this struggle but in supporting and recruiting the Indian and other international students whose explosive struggles over safety issues in the taxi industry in 2006 and 2008 are what has made the broader public and the union movement sit up and take notice of conditions in the industry. CARA and the VTDA would not have the seats at the table that they have to negotiate hard with government without the sacrifices of the student drivers, many of whom lost their jobs after their participation in the April 2008 demo, which shut down the centre of the CBD for 24 hours.

The TWU would do well to take notice of the consequences of focusing solely on the existing membership instead of looking out for opportunities to expand membership amongst the future of the industry. The Textile Clothing and Footwear Union (TCFUA) may find that they have left their run too late, with the closure of their key unionised factories at Pacific Brands, and the small returns from their ad hoc approach to recruitment amongst outworkers and home-based workers, now the vast majority of the industry. The TWU is in an envious position compared to the TCFUA, whose workers are mostly home-based migrant workers. Potential TWU members have taken their own action on the streets of Melbourne several times over the past few years, and in the case of the international student taxi drivers, have shut down the centre of the city twice over safety issues. These workers organised with no more support than their mobile phones, word-of-mouth, and a couple of hastily drawn up fliers. Imagine what they could do with the full backing of their union!

Capitalism, police, violence

M. Skelton

There's been much talk this week about the G20 London protests, in which the same familiar topics and stereotypes have been raised and debated. One recurring theme which always troubles me is the way that violent intention is disproportionately attributed to the collected group of protestors. Two friends within the week have with suspicion leaned over the table and earnestly asked,

"I sympathise with their argument/cause/issues, but really – how many of those people were just there to cause trouble?"

And because of this question I want to write down a few thoughts about the dynamics of these counter-summit demonstrations which I think should be considered and accepted as a realistic depiction of what is occurring at these protest events.

To start with the idea of 'troublemakers' or 'agitators' or 'anarchists' who are out 'looking for trouble' is a myth, designed by the police and reported by the media in order to prepare people for the eventual repression of any popular movement that threatens the established status quo on the streets. It's more sinister equivalent in terms of national security is 'terrorist', and if you actually believe that those exist then I suggest you start writing letters to Santa for a crash course in wake-the-fuck-up.

However, as many people suspect, yes there are those of us who go to protests to visibly and forcefully challenge the dominance of the current financial system, including its control over our rights of public expression. The contestation between police and protesters is symptomatic of this challenge - that's the point.

What has to be said clearly is this – the police are not a neutral force designed to ensure harmony and equilibrium in society. They are a ideological instrument of repression, who serve to protect the divide in society between those who have and those who have not. The idea that crime necessitates police is a myth. Without poverty, without inequality, there would be no crime. The rich and ruling elite represented at the G20 meeting have no interest in redistributing wealth into an equitable global economy, thereby poverty, unemployment and debt must be maintained. Following this, the police must remain employed to protect the interests of this elite, and during global finance summits their role is no different – they are there to protect the interests of their masters, who hold their leash, much as an officer would with a trained police dog.

Perhaps some police are different, perhaps they joined for the 'right' reasons, but the fact remains that the police force is a morally unredeemable feature of a capitalist society.

Which brings me to a direct address of the afore-mentioned suspicions about the protesters' real motivations. Who is really at fault when acts of violence erupt during protests? In their high towers, behind closed doors, you have a meeting between the men and women who are directly responsible for the suffering and misery of millions. The G20 forum is host not only to the politicians who consistently place the interests of business before those of the people, it also provides an opportunity for lobbyists from transnational corporations to discuss and direct policy with those politicians, while representatives of international

criminal organisations such as the IMF, the World Bank, and the WTO monitor and influence the proceedings. At its most basic it is a summit that captures the essential disparity between the people and the ruling class. While thousands of people protest in every city they meet, the handful of people invested with power by a corrupt system collude to further their own interests, to the exclusion of all other voices. This is the true violence that occurred in London.

The idea that must be reinforced again and again is that a broken window, a swung baton, a graffitied building – all these are incidences of only the smallest and subjective type of violence that occurs within society. The real and most serious violent act is the insulation of decision making power behind closed doors, behind barriers of steel and concrete, lines of armed and dangerous police officers, security cameras, tear gas and containment zones. This is violence at its most supreme – the type which exists beyond the action of individuals. The type which suggests that it is appropriate for decisions about the future of the global economy to be made by the same people who originally created the problem through their greed and malice, to the exclusion of all other voices. That is an ideological violence which cannot be equalled by a young anarchist who throws a stone at a police officer, or a worker who resists arrest.

And yet the reports that we get from the mainstream news sources serve only to discredit the purpose and resolve of the people, by highlighting violent acts, and supposing that this will remove focus from the strength and dignity with which the crowd tried to demonstrate. The final dynamic which must be appreciated is this – not only do the media seek small acts of violence in order to fill out their prepared and pre-written reports – they create them. One journalist on the day of G20 London admitted that "there are ten of us to every protestor".

A key image from the day shows one man throwing a computer screen through an already broken window of the Bank of Scotland. Trivial in itself, compared to the army of media photographers behind him – all poised to capture and record the performance for posterity. The presence of media at the forefront of protests is poisonous, rendering every attempt at action empty and meaningless – a mere gesture of aggression for the camera. They write thousands of words about 'rage' and 'troublemakers' and 'warnings', and then when the day comes, they reap the benefit of heightened tension, as the confrontation between police and protester begins. No-one on those streets is more despicably self-interested, more nihilistic and arrogant than the commercial press. Their golden words and silver tongues should be ignored if not simply cut off. The media lies to you.

So, in conclusion, I wish to say this: yes, people are on the streets to cause trouble, because they are downsized, mistreated, lied to, deprived of dignity, stripped of their rights, forced into menial occupations and all the while monitored and seduced by the financial and governmental apparatus of a ruling elite. They are well within their rights to be pissed off, and if they riot then all power to them.

We're not that surprised that the Greens aren't going to save us, but think it's worth publishing this criticism.

As well, we're not sure that the ideal of 'real jobs for all' is either attainable or necessarily worth fighting for. Surely there are better ways to organise our lives than waged labour? However, it's also true that unemployment is generally horrible, that rising unemployment means workers are being punished for failures of the system, and that jumping through Centrelink/Job Network hoops is a lot like having to work, only with really shit pay.

There are a lot of interesting questions to be asked about how the struggle against unemployment can connect with the refusal of work. There's a need for collective strategy and action – so if you have ideas, you should write to us.

- Princess Mob

The Australian Greens may have Betrayed their Social Justice Principles

By SistaGrrrl

In their media release of March 26th claiming Job Network changes 'may boost jobless' the Australian Greens may have betrayed their social justice principles. The Greens senator Rachel Siewert appears to support existing Job Network providers over the human rights of the long term jobless who are pleading for an end to exploitive and abusive practices rife in the employment services sector. Rather than focussing on improving benefits, rights and opportunities for the unemployed, the Greens appear to side with those who are paid to micromanage their lives. This is at a time when there is pending a long awaited Federal overhaul of the employment services sector. The jobless are looking for change after the punitive Howard years in which former Workplace Participation minister Mal Brough boasted his breaching and compliance regime administered by the job networks was designed as an "embuggerance" for the unemployed.

> "Perhaps because its not about "helping" the unemployed but about punishment, surveillance and social control of the underclass victims of structural changes in our economy."

Are the Greens propping up a protected employment services industry that serves to silence, monitor and supervise the disadvantaged? Are they reinforcing an instrument of social control at the expense of job creation and social equality? Job Networks are big business thriving on taxpayer dollars and human misery. Even the Prime Minister's wife was able to sell her job agency for a cool $40 million but besides churning paper and lives what do job network businesses really do besides training hapless unemployed to beg for jobs that don't exist. Why is there no evidence-based assessment or costs/benefit analysis of the employment services industry and why is there a total lack of accountability to their unemployed clients? Perhaps because its not about "helping" the unemployed but about punishment, surveillance and social control of the underclass victims of structural changes in our economy.

Why not redeploy the massive taxpayer-funded employment services dollar away from this monolith of social disempowerment towards real jobs for all such as in bushfire prevention, alternate energies, infrastructure development and the creative industries. Unemployed people don't want charity or supervision they just want equality and full citizenship rights including the right to work enshrined in the U.N. charter signed by Australia. Its time the Australian Greens revealed their true position on social equality and human rights for the unemployed and consulted more widely rather than appearing captive to middle class interests.

Resurgence: queer empire strikes back

- Report by Rascal & Princess Mob

For some, March is a bit like gay xmas. With Mardi Gras come countless events, most of which feed into the pink-dollar spectacle of commodified sexualities. And then, there are events like this year's Resurgence, which called for the creation of "spaces outside/within/around the spaces occupied by capitalism and the state" where alternative, subversive and militant queer cultures can learn to resolve our own problems, educate, flourish and confront.

Workshops over the weekend generally fitted into three types: do-it-yourself, identity politics and campaigns/anticapitalism. The themes ranged from queer identity 101, self-defense, masculine privilege, housing crisis, strategies for dance-shy folk, responding to sexual assault, rapping, and racial stereotypes in queer performance. It was really positive to see that many of the workshops at Resurgence identified problems in the queer scenes/communities in inner-west Sydney and elsewhere, and sought to collectively develop politics and solutions.

In the face of the "Nations United" Mardi Gras propaganda and the withdrawal of the queer Arab group Beit el Hob from the parade, racism is clearly a huge issue that we, as queers, and as revolutionaries, have to fight. In this context, it's a problem that there was only one hour of discussion about race in the whole conference.

This leads to some bigger considerations… When discussions about identity focus solely on empowering a specific minority, are we really engaging with the sources of our oppression? How do we build solidarity to smash the sources of all discrimination?

Something that Resurgence didn't do, that I thought was a bit weird, was not having open spaces: that is, room within the conference program for people to create new workshops and activities. On principle, it's great to encourage people's self-organisation by supporting and developing open spaces models. There was also no chance for everyone to gather and talk about what the conference meant overall. This was most likely an issue of physical space, but it was a pity that there was no chance to consider together how the many and varied workshops could inform ongoing efforts to "celebrate our community, to strengthen our community, and to politicise our community," as the Resurgence 2009 callout proposed.

A couple of years ago, the NewQ space, at 22 Enmore Rd came out of the first Resurgence festival. It was set up to respond to the need for non-commercial, accessible queer spaces in Sydney. This time around, the second Resurgence marks a reinvigoration of the politics of the space, under a new name and management collective, towards a more active queer friendly organising space. Thinking about what came out of the first Resurgence is important, as it could prefigure what happens out of this new and exciting opportunity. The new tu-tu space at 22 Enmore Road, like Resurgence, is an important space for us to come together, enabling us to learn from each other, and develop the strength and trust to take on homophobia, as well as all other systems of oppression: racism, sexism, transphobia and capitalism. And it's open to everyone to put on events, workshops, talks, working bees and whatever else comes to mind!

There's going to be an open de-brief from Resurgence on **April 23rd** at **6.30**, at **tutu community queer space, 22 Enmore Rd**. All welcome!

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Reviews

The Commoner No.13 - There's an energy crisis (among others) in the air...
(journal)

There's a new issue of *The Commoner* out: an english-language autonomist journal that's been around for about 8 years. This one is themed around energy crises; notably of oil, coal and gas. It discusses these and what a transition away from such energy sources (to renewable ones, like solar and wind power) would mean for us and for capital.

Although it's a hard read the content is really impressive. Articles discuss struggles around the control of fossil fuels (for instance by oil workers in Iraq and by indigenous people in the tar sands of Alberta, Canada), connect energy production to struggles around work and examine the way in which renewable energy technology could play a part in a new regime of capital accumulation (aka 'green capitalism').

Reading it had a really practical purpose for me. I started whilst I was planning on going to a big 'climate action summit' in Canberra, which I thought would almost certainly be dominated by liberal-conservative views. I wanted to stock up on radical arguments and have evidence to back them up. It definitely helped me to clarify my ideas and participate more effectively.

The introduction and the articles by Kolya Abramsky and Tom Keefer are particularly good. One of the main arguments that they develop is that for capital climate change isn't just a 'climate crisis' but is an energy crisis. Capital needs to move away from oil and coal as the primary sources of energy-both because of resistance to the extraction of these and because supplies are eventually going to run out.

What matters then is not so much whether renewable energy infrastructure starts being used: but rather how it is implemented. This can be either for social needs or in a capitalist way, as a new source of profit. What we fundamentally need to 'solve climate change' (without further increasing hierarchies and making an already bad world even worse) isn't just the development of 'renewable energy' but a solution that isn't capitalist.

My main suggestion for improving the journal is to try and make it more accessible. The articles are mostly very long, and available in pdf format-which meant that I had to print them off to go over them thoroughly. At times it felt like doing reading for uni. Even something really simple like adding pictures to the articles, or using double-spacing would have helped!

Normally, I also would have been critical of the decision to include a few more reformist articles (one talks a lot about how great a National Wind Energy Plan in Mexico would be). I felt that this was fair enough however, given the limited amount of material to work with and all the articles did contribute to the issue's general arguments. With the strength of the introduction it felt more like an invitation to start thinking about revolutionary, class politics in relation to the themes, than a regression to social democracy and a closing off of possibilities.

It's found at www.commoner.org.uk.

by Syzygy

The Wire (seasons 1 to 3)
(TV series)

Shiiiiiiiiiiiiiit. *The Wire* is such a great show. So much cleverer and more mature than so many other shows. But let's start at the beginning: this is a cop show, yes, you heard: a cop show. Now it's not only about cops – it's far more complicated than that. Seasons 1 and 3 are about the drug trade in Baltimore. But the show not only looks at coppers working, trying to make their futile jobs count (or sometimes bash as many heads in as they can) – but also the story is told from the perspective of the people working in and running the drug trade. From the kids in the streets all the way up to the drug lords. We see who works, who suffers and who benefits. We see the cultures and families of cops and drug traders. We see the power struggles in bureaucracy and the way power itself is organised makes most people impotent and alienated or worse.

But really the most interesting thing about *The Wire* for me is the analysis it gives us scope for. So many of the characters and relationships and repercussions of actions explored in the show are so deep that all the people who I know who watch the show have different and relevant analyses about the show - "it's about alienated labour" or "it's about differing strategies of capital". It's about lives and desires and power and technology and so many things; it's about urban lives in our fucked up world. Shiiiiiiiiit, just watch some.

by AngryNerd

Economics for Ordinary Folk
(workshop)

On 28th March *"Economics for Ordinary Folk"* was hosted by AFTINET (Australian Fair Trade and Investment Network) and AID/WATCH. This was a 1 day workshop aimed at skilling-up participants on economics and the impact of orthodox economic theories on the peoples of the world, particularly the majority world. It was a jam-packed day with 7 speakers including Professor Frank Stilwell (University of Sydney-Political Economy), Professor Jane Kelsey (University of Auckland - Law/Trade/Globalisation) & James Arvanitakis (Humanities at the University of Western Sydney).

The morning session was a basic rundown of economic theory, including a more detailed look at neo-liberalism. This session focused on the down-falls of neo-liberalism such as it's theoretical basis that humans only make rational decisions and are individualistic, greedy beings, that privatisation and deregulation are good and that the market will solve everything (which it clearly doesn't!). We then explored the idea of globalisation and the global justice movement, with inspiring examples from anti-capitalist movements creating alternatives to capitalism around the world. This was followed by a session on the global financial crisis, delivered via internet by Jane Kelsey from New Zealand. Jane asked a number of critical questions to explore how the crisis is viewed, eg. as a crisis in capitalism in it's current form or a containable, strictly economic crisis. The final session had an Australian focus, with a brief look at Australia's trade and aid policies, and a longer discussion session about what we can do towards a more just future. This teach-in was a fantastic, if intense learning experience, with amazing speakers.

The event was extremely popular, and will be held again soon. For more info, or to express interest in an upcoming workshop email campaign@aftinet.org.au or lara@aidwatch.org.au.

xoxo red

In This Issue:

- A report from G20 demonstrations in London, and reflections on police, capitalism and violence.

- Taxi drivers protest in Melbourne

- Criticism of Job Networks and The Greens.

- News of factory, university and land occupantions, strikes and boss-napping.

- Reviews of *The Commoner*, *The Wire* and a forum on *Economics for Ordinary Folk*.

Upcoming Events

Black Rose Film Night: Sir! No Sir!

26th of April at 6:30pm at Black Rose

Sir! No Sir! Tells the long suppressed story of the GI movement to end the war in Vietnam. This is the story of one of the most vibrant and widespread upheavals of the 1960's. Entry by $5 donation.

Capitalism in crisis - let's party for May Day!
Grand re-opening of the Jura Library

From 6pm, Friday 1st of May in the Jura Library, free.

Cracks are growing in the empire of global capitalism. Bosses are trying to maintain their profits in the face of environmental and economic meltdown. Meanwhile, workers around the world are occupying their workplaces and rioting in the streets. May Day is the international day of the workers - a day to celebrate and re-invigorate our fight to build workers' control of our industries and communities. Come and party with us, read books, and plan revolution. The Jura Library is being re-opened after two years of reconstructions and renovations - yay!

Rock 'n roll in the Jura Library

From 7pm, Tuesday 5th may, all ages welcome

Daniel Striped Tiger (USA) and other bands in the library.

Come to the Fish Markets!!!!

On the 3rd of May, 1pm - 5pm, 22 Enmore rd Newtown

An artist market for swapping selling and enjoying stuff that people made, built, grew, published themselves.

To book a table email: littlefishgallery@gmail.com, it is the new Little Fish email address. Tables are by donation, meaning please give some kinda monetary donation towards Little Fish community DIY gallery.

There will be acoustic music in the Black Rose anarchist library and bookshop and a jaffle caffe in the Tutu community queer space, all spaces under same roof.

Accessibility: there are three steps at the front of the gallery.

Tell your friends!!!